

North Cumberland Fire District

Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2005

Opening:

The regular meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District was called to order at

7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20, 2005 by, acting Chairman Paul Lindquist.

Present: Absent:

Paul Lindquist Edward LeBlanc

Martin Klara

Matthew Gannon

Ronald Dupont

Brian Campbell

John Aharonian

Robert Audette

Others Present:

Rene Gendreau, Chief Geraldine Dupont, Tax Collector

Fay Dakake, Clerk

Daniel Hamel, Treasurer

A motion was made by Mr. Gannon, seconded by Mr. Audette, to allow Mr. Lindquist to Chair this meeting. All in favor. So voted.

Treasurer Hamel arrived at 7:03 p.m.

A. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Dupont, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to approve the Clerk's report as written. All in favor. So voted.

B. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Hamel's report included:

- o Financial Summary dated April 20, 2005**
- o Tax collections report dated March 31, 2005**
- o Balance sheet as of March 31, 2005**
- o Profit and Loss statement dated March, 2005**
- o Profit and Loss statement July through March, 2005**

Treasurer Hamel pointed out that the Financial Summary indicates that NCFD is currently \$55,497.25 over budget for tax collections. A correction to last month's figures was made; money that was moved from the Fleet account to the Citizens account was inadvertently placed in tax collections and it has now been corrected to be on the proper accounting line. Treasurer Hamel also indicated that the payroll expense was for a 5-week pay period in March. The payroll date was for a week ending in March but it was actually paid in April.

Mr. Lindquist inquired as to how much of the \$20,000. legal fees had been recouped from the tax sale. Treasurer Hamel believes approximately \$9,500., but the intent is to follow through and regain all of the legal expenses.

A motion was made by Mr. Dupont, seconded by Mr. Klara, to accept the Treasurer's Report as written. All in favor. So voted.

C. Tax Collectors Report

Although Tax Collector Dupont was not in attendance she did submit a report dated March 20, 2005.

A motion was made by Mr. Gannon, seconded by Mr. Audette, to accept the Tax Collector's report as written. All in favor. So voted.

D. Chief's Report/Monthly Expenditures

Chief Gendreau submitted a monthly report for March 2005. The following topics were highlighted by the Chief:

- o EMS re-certification cards were received**
- o Pvt's Paquin and Garon went to the Barnstable County Fire and Training Academy for a Thermal Imaging course.**
- o The Fire Act Program grant request has been completed and submitted. The narrative portion of the grant application was**

distributed.

- o The concrete pad and storage shed was installed this week.**

- o The new sign has been set in.**

- o It was verified by Trim-A-Tree Service that the tree decorated at Christmas time is diseased and should be removed. Central Nurseries offered a replacement tree for the old replaced skid unit.**

Mr. Dupont inquired if item 6110 New England Gas \$1165.45 was for 1 month. The Chief responded affirmatively. He explained that NCFD was considered a commercial account and no longer eligible to be on a budget with the gas company.

- o The Communication Unlimited expense was explained as work done to enable the 2-line cordless phone to be taken outside. This will eliminate missed calls if working outside.**

Praise was given to the Department and surrounding communities for an outstanding job done yesterday on Diamond Hill Road.

A motion was made by Mr. Klara, seconded by Mr. Dupont, to accept the Chief's Report and Monthly Expenditures as written. All in favor. So voted.

E. Financial Management, Budget, Taxes

Treasurer Hamel announced he will be meeting with the Chief and Tax

Collector Dupont regarding the budget. His concern is that since re-evaluation, the assessed values will not be the same. His question is “What do you set the tax rate at if you don’t know what the current value is?” He is currently working on trying to get an accurate assessed value from the Town to move forward with the budget.

F. Personnel, Labor Relations

Acting chairman Lindquist called a special meeting to be held Wednesday, April 27, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the proposed contract.

G. Negotiations

Mr. Dupont commented that negotiations went very smoothly, and feels were very fair. He mentioned that both sides were very professional.

H. Nominations

Mr. Gannon noted that a meeting of the nomination committee would be held this evening.

I. Building, Grounds, Apparatus, Computer

Mr. Klara voiced concern regarding the newly installed sign. He mentioned that he has known other businesses with the same type of sign which have been destroyed by wind. He asked what the sign’s warranty or guarantee was. He suggested that the Board take preventive measures to protect the sign from wind damage.

It was announced that the new storage shed had been erected.

Mr. Klara reported that 3 years ago the Board authorized the replacement of the tree which is decorated at Christmas time. Now that its disease has been confirmed, they have gotten a quote of \$625. for removal. A trade was offered, the old skid unit for a new 12-15 ft. tree along with removal of the old one.

A motion was made by Mr. Dupont, seconded by Mr. Gannon, to accept the substitution of a new tree in favor of the skid unit. All in favor. So voted.

Captain Delisle suggested that some type of public relations explaining why the tree is being removed be done to avoid complaints from uninformed citizens.

Mr. Campbell apologized for not contacting Mr. Audette and for not actively researching the long term cost alternatives of a dedicated server. He plans to get together with Lieutenant Emerson to have this completed before the budget is finalized.

J. Insurance

No comment.

K. Public Relations

- o A thank you note was received by Captain Delisle's family.**
- o NCFD was recognized in the paper recently by the North Attleboro Fire Department for the coverage of their station during a fire.**
- o Captain Delise asked if anyone had seen the recent article in the Valley Breeze highlighting the decline in volunteer firefighters.**

L. Old Business

1. Fire Act 2005

The Chief reported that the grant application has been filed.

2. Charter

Mr. Dupont again reported that the Charter had been passed through the House but it seems to be stalled with the Senate Committee. He will be in contact with Representative Singleton.

M. New Business

1. Thermal Imaging Camera

Chief Gendreau explained that the men have been researching thermal imaging cameras that are more compact, easier, safer, and have better features. They had a demonstration at the Station which revealed that a light ballast needed to be replaced due to the temperature that it was emanating. He distributed copies of thermal imaging bids. He asked permission for the firefighters to compare these cameras side by side and for the authorization to purchase based on their recommendation. The funds would not be coming out of the operating budget. NCFD has an excess of \$17,000. in the Plan

Review account. He did put in for 1 camera with the Fire Act Program. Their goal is to have 2 identical cameras on both Engine 54 and Truck 5.

Captain Delise made testimony to the advanced technology and safety that a new camera would provide.

A motion was made by Mr. Klara, seconded by Mr. Audette, to permit the Chief to select and purchase a new thermal imaging camera, after careful assessment by the firefighters. All in favor. So voted.

2. Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant

The Chief expressed his desire to staff 7 individuals under this program. This would enable him to have 5 people on duty on all shifts and to run both trucks. The Board voiced their concern over the long term obligation to these individuals. It was suggested that research be done to calculate the financial obligation per firefighter in order to make a responsible and educated decision. They felt more comfortable knowing that if 7 individuals were granted, they could decline any number if they found it was not affordable. The Chief requested an answer from the Board at the next meeting in order to meet the grant deadline.

3. Letter of Resignation

Board member Ronald Dupont submitted a formal letter of resignation effective April 30, 2005. On behalf of the Board, Acting Chairman Linquist thanked Mr. Dupont for his years of service.

N. Public Comment

No comment.

Adjournment

Motion is made by Mr. Campbell to adjourn the meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District at 7:50 p.m., seconded by Mr. Aharonian. All in favor. So voted.

Minutes submitted by: Fay Dakake, Clerk _____

Approved by: Paul Lindquist_____

Acting Chairman